

CASE STUDY: JACKSON MCDONALD

with Adam Versaci
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1.

The Challenge

After eight years working in a business development role for a facility management company, I secured my law degree and commenced at Jackson McDonald, Western Australia's largest independent law firm, in 2018. As a junior corporate solicitor, I deal mostly with matters related to capital markets, which requires a thorough understanding of the interplay between the Corporations Act and the ASX Listing Rules. This means I read a lot of authoritative guidance published by the regulators. These guidance notes contextualise the legislation and Listing Rules so we can properly ensure compliance with them in matters we act on. However, the authors of these guidance notes tend to adopt similar dense communication styles as legislative drafting which, at times, ironically creates a barrier between the law and the practical application of it. Often, the published guidance lacks breadth and depth of practical examples that would greatly assist in navigating complex information. Our corporate clients expect excellence and efficiency so we see Practical Law as an essential resource that creates additional value for clients.

2.

The Solution

I first heard about Practical Law from one of my colleagues. From the moment I accessed the trial I remember it giving me enormous ability for speed, and clarity. The platform's intuitive navigation quickly identifies the knowledge resources I need to assist me. In particular, the What's Market feature, and Practical Guidance Notes I found the most helpful and will usually start there. The information instilled into the main parts of these practical notes had simple but broad overviews, and helped me drill down key rules a little bit further, so I could swiftly apply them to a particular legislative situation.

There have been times where certain rules, laws and published guidance don't adequately explain the practical application of key concepts. I have found Practical Law to be a very efficient tool in bridging that gap. It's a solid productive starting point in my work for general information and contextual knowledge of what I need to do. It will explain the context thoroughly, as well as tell you where to go to research that context further. I would much prefer this than trawling for hours through cases to find relevant examples via Boolean databases. Practical Law is a useful day-to-day resource as you can tailor the clear insights to the client and matter at hand. I will often hear my fellow juniors say they will check out Practical Law first to see if there is anything that further explains a scenario.

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3.

The Future

Our Knowledge Manager has certainly taken notice and is currently exploring how Jackson McDonald can further benefit in other practice areas with Practical Law. It has certainly supercharged my working habits for the future and extended my base knowledge robustly. I feel empowered to be a better resource for our clients and particularly a more efficient employee and valuable team member as my legal career matures into the future.

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